

**APPENDIX A: PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL INVESTIGATIONS,  
MONO LAKE, 1948**

**W. Dombrowski**

PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL INVESTIGATIONS

POPULATION DATA

1. Date September 20, 1948 Time 4:30 PM  
 2. Locality (be specific) Rush Creek Delta, Mono Lake, Mono County, Calif

3. Estimated total number of waterfowl by species.

Whistling Swan	<u>0</u>	Redhead	<u>0</u>
Honker	<u>0</u>	Ring-necked duck	<u>0</u>
Lesser Canada	<u>0</u>	Canvasback	<u>0</u>
Cackling Goose	<u>0</u>	Greater Scaup	<u>0</u>
Black Brant	<u>0</u>	Lesser Scaup	<u>0</u>
White Fronted Goose	<u>0</u>	American Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Tule Goose	<u>0</u>	Barrows Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Lesser Snow Goose	<u>0</u>	Buffle-head	<u>0</u>
Ross Goose	<u>0</u>	Old Squaw	<u>0</u>
Mallard	<u>21#</u>	Harlequin duck	<u>0</u>
Gadwall	<u>7 #</u>	White-winged Scoter	<u>0</u>
Baldpate	<u>13 #</u>	Surf Scoter	<u>0</u>
Pintail	<u>148#</u>	American Scoter	<u>0</u>
Green-winged Teal	<u>47#</u>	Buddy duck	<u>0</u>
Blue-winged Teal	<u>6#</u>	Fulvous tree duck	<u>0</u>
Cinnamon Teal	<u>0</u>	Wood duck	<u>0</u>
Shoveller	<u>3250#</u>	Coot	<u>460#</u>

4. Remarks # Eye count. Made on fresh water pond East of Rush Creek  
(shaded area shown on map) Total number of ducks observed in general  
area estimated at 175,000 to 200,000.  
Weather clear and moderately warm. Light SW wind less than 5 MPH.

PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL INVESTIGATIONS

POPULATION DATA

1. Date September 27th 1948  
 2. Locality (be specific) Rush Creek Delta, Mono Co, California  
South shore of Mono Lake

3. Estimated total number of waterfowl by species.

Whistling Swan	<u>0</u>	Redhead	<u>0</u>
Honker	<u>0</u>	Ring-necked duck	<u>0</u>
Lesser Canada	<u>0</u>	Canvasback	<u>0</u>
Cackling Goose	<u>0</u>	Greater Scaup	<u>0</u>
Black Brant	<u>0</u>	Lesser Scaup	<u>0</u>
White Fronted Goose	<u>0</u>	American Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Tule Goose	<u>0</u>	Barrows Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Lesser Snow Goose	<u>0</u>	Buffle-head	<u>0</u>
Ross Goose	<u>0</u>	Old Squaw	<u>0</u>
Mallard	<u>16</u>	Harlequin duck	<u>0</u>
Gadwall	<u>0</u>	White-winged Scoter	<u>0</u>
Baldpate	<u>10</u>	Surf Scoter	<u>0</u>
Pintail	<u>42</u>	American Scoter	<u>0</u>
Green-winged Teal	<u>10</u>	Ruddy duck	<u>0</u>
Blue-winged Teal	<u>4</u>	Fulvous tree duck	<u>0</u>
Cinnamon Teal	<u>0</u>	Wood duck	<u>0</u>
Shoveller	<u>368</u>	Coot	<u>66</u>

4. Remarks The eye count is low this time on account of last weeks storm taking out the dyke on the East side and we lost most of the water in it. This has been repaired and next weeks count will be much larger. The estimate of all ducks in this vicinity remains at 175,000 to 200,000.

*Handwritten initials/signature*

PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL INVESTIGATIONS

POPULATION DATA

1. Date October 4th (1948)  
 2. Locality (be specific) Rush Creek Delta, Mono Co. Calif (South shore of Mono Lake)

3. Estimated total number of waterfowl by species.

Whistling Swan	<u>0</u>	Redhead	<u>0</u>
Honker	<u>0</u>	Ring-necked duck	<u>0</u>
Lesser Canada	<u>0</u>	Canvasback	<u>0</u>
Cackling Goose	<u>0</u>	Greater Scaup	<u>0</u>
Black Brant	<u>0</u>	Lesser Scaup	<u>0</u>
White Fronted Goose	<u>0</u>	American Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Tule Goose	<u>0</u>	Barrows Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Lesser Snow Goose	<u>0</u>	Buffle-head	<u>0</u>
Ross Goose	<u>0</u>	Old Squaw	<u>0</u>
Mallard	<u>45</u> #	Harlequin duck	<u>0</u>
Catwail	<u>12</u> #	White-winged Scoter	<u>0</u>
Baldpate	<u>65</u> #	Surf Scoter	<u>0</u>
Pintail	<u>225</u> #	American Scoter	<u>0</u>
Green-winged Teal	<u>36</u> #	Ruddy duck	<u>7</u> #
Blue-winged Teal	<u>0</u>	Fulvous tree duck	<u>0</u>
Cinnamon Teal	<u>0</u>	Wood duck	<u>0</u>
Shoveler	<u>3200</u>	Coot	<u>67</u> #

4. Remarks Estimated number of ducks in vicinity 175,000  
Time 9.00AM Feather cool and part cloudy, Temp 60° Lowest last night 29° Calm. Ducks were not moving very much.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL INVESTIGATIONS

POPULATION DATA

Date October 11, 1948

Weather: Cloudy, Southeast wind 25 Mi per hour Temp 62 Minimum last night 30.4°

Locality (be specific) Rush Creek Delta, Mono County, Calif

South shore of Mono Lake.

Estimated total number of waterfowl by species.

Whistling Swan	<u>0</u>	Redhead	<u>#12</u>
Honker	<u>0</u>	Ring-necked duck	<u>0</u>
Lesser Canada	<u>0</u>	Canvasback	<u>0</u>
Cackling Goose	<u>0</u>	Greater Scaup	<u>0</u>
Black Brant	<u>0</u>	Lesser Scaup	<u>0</u>
White Fronted Goose	<u>0</u>	American Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Tule Goose	<u>0</u>	Barrows Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Lesser Snow Goose	<u>0</u>	Buffle-head	<u>0</u>
Ross Goose	<u>0</u>	Old Squaw	<u>0</u>
Mallard	<u>#75</u>	Harlequin duck	<u>0</u>
Gadwall	<u>#15</u>	White-winged Scoter	<u>0</u>
Baldpate	<u>#40</u>	Surf Scoter	<u>0</u>
Pintail	<u>#350</u>	American Scoter	<u>0</u>
Green-winged Teal	<u>#335</u>	Ruddy duck	<u>18</u>
Blue-winged Teal	<u>0</u>	Fulvous tree duck	<u>0</u>
Cinnamon Teal	<u>0</u>	Wood duck	<u>0</u>
Shoveller	<u>#5200</u>	Coot	<u>350</u>

Remarks Estimated ducks in vicinity 300,000 - 400,000

On account of storm conditions it was impossible to obtain eye count of birds on pond. Upon first observation it was estimated that there were about 60,000 in pond. Birds were frightened off the pond and a half hour count of ducks returning produced the above count. The coots and ruddies did not leave pond.

Submitted by Walter Hamilton 514

In counting the returning birds only flocks were counted as follows

Species	No of Flights	Ave No of Birds per flight
Shoveller	160	30 - 35
Pintail	72	10 - 15
Mallard	9	8 - 10
Green wing teal	14	15 - 20
Gadwall	3	5 - 6
Baldpate	7	5 - 6
Redhead	1	12

Singles and pairs were ignored

PACIFIC FLYWAY WATERFOWL INVESTIGATIONS

POPULATION DATA

1. Date of Census November 1, 1948 Time of Day 8.00 AM  
 2. Locality (be specific) Rush Creek Delta Mono County (S. shore Mono)  
 3. Weather for Censusing Strong SE wind Visibility Good, Fair, Poor  
Cloudy  
 4. Temperature 46° Condition of tide if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

5. Estimated total number of waterfowl by species:

Whistling Swan	<u>0</u>	Cinnamon Teal	<u>0</u>
Canada Goose (Honker)	<u>0</u>	Shoveller	<u>27</u>
Lesser Canada	<u>0</u>	Redhead	<u>3</u>
Cackling Goose	<u>2</u>	Ring-necked Duck	<u>0</u>
Black Sea Brant	<u>0</u>	Canvasback	<u>0</u>
White-fronted Goose	<u>0</u>	Scaup	<u>0</u>
Tule Goose	<u>0</u>	Golden-eye	<u>0</u>
Lesser Snow Goose	<u>0</u>	Buffle-head	<u>4</u>
Ross Goose	<u>0</u>	Old Squaw	<u>0</u>
Unidentified Geese	<u>0</u>	Harlequin	<u>0</u>
Kallard	<u>2</u>	Scoter	<u>0</u>
Gadwall	<u>7</u>	Ruddy	<u>0</u>
Baldpate	<u>3</u>	Fulvous tree duck	<u>0</u>
Pintail	<u>10</u>	Wood Duck	<u>0</u>
Green-winged Teal	<u>4</u>	Unidentified Ducks	<u>6</u>
Blue-winged Teal	<u>0</u>	Coot	<u>92</u>
		Mergansers	<u>0</u>

Remarks: On account of the open season and concentration of hunters in this area it was impossible to take a census on the 18th and 25th of September. The ducks at present are rafted up near the center of the lake where it is difficult to make an estimate of the number. However including ruddies there are now well over a million ducks on the lake 80% of which are ruddies and shovellers.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

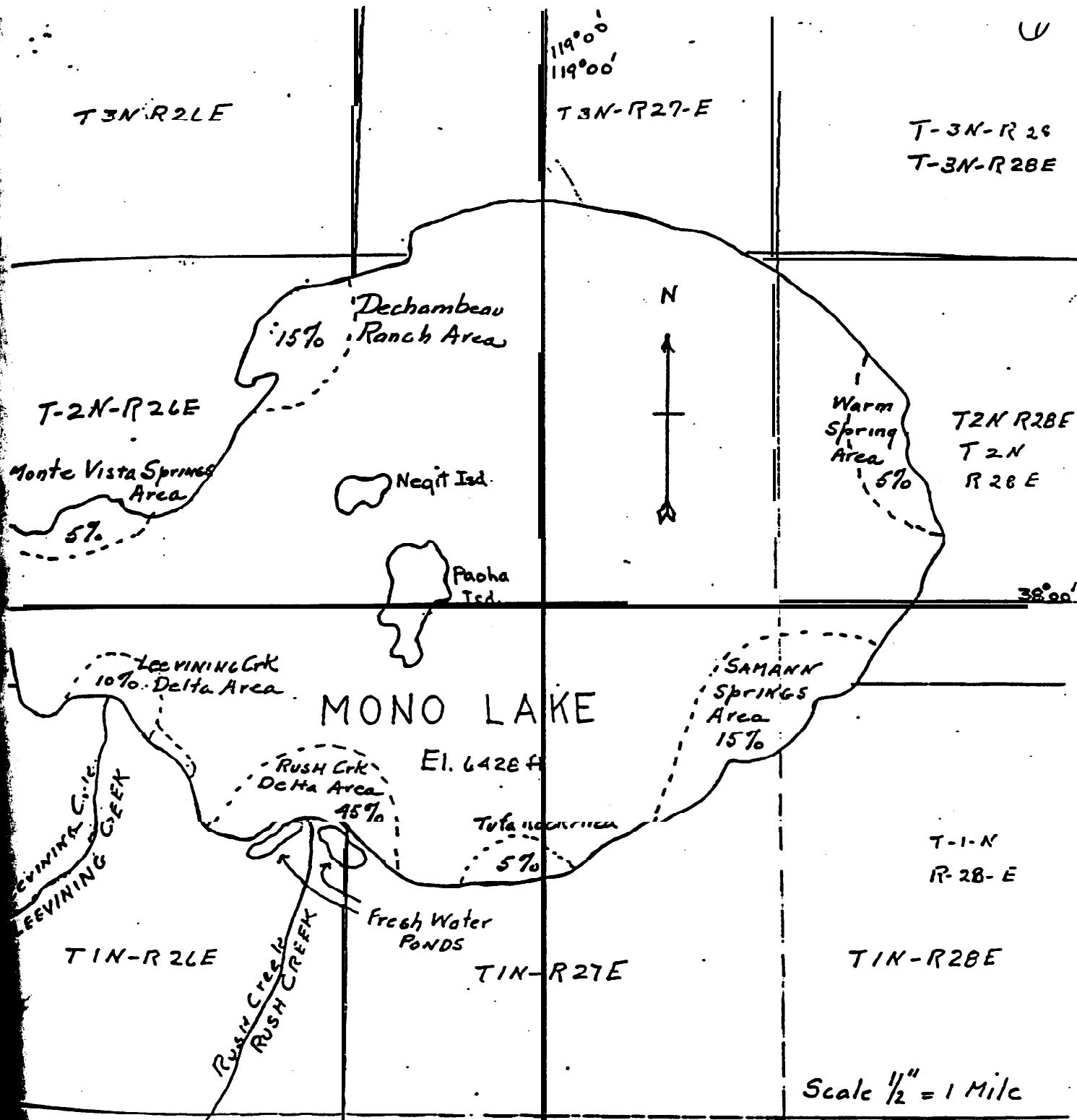
Considering the number of ducks in the area, the season was poor from a shooting viewpoint. With a rough estimate of about 4500 man shooting days less than three thousand birds were killed around Mono Lake. Full moon, fair weather and no wind were responsible. The birds can feed and obtain water from the fresh water spring in the lake so the birds remained far from shore during the open season.

Of the birds killed ABOUT 70% were shovellers, 15% gadwall, the other 15% pintail, greenwing teal, baldpate and mallards in about equal percentages. Few ruddies were killed. Early part of the season the kill consisted mostly of females but towards the end there were more males.

Since the birds feed on the lake early mornings the morning flight in this area is negligible and the shooting closes to early in the day to take advantage of any evening flight.

WD





MAP of MONO LAKE  
showing

relative approximate percentages of waterfowl distribution around shore of the lake. This distribution is naturally affected by shooting during the open season.

Map of  
Rush Creek Delta  
Area

Scale 1" = 500 ft.

Area within dotted line  
covered by general estimate

Mono Lake



N.E. cor  
Sec 13 T1N-R26

Spillway  
2 1/2 ACS  
FRESHWATER

POND 10 ACS.  
FRESH WATER

Ditch  
Dam  
Ditch

AREA  
of  
Eye Count  
Observation

22 ACS

Fresh  
Water  
Pond

Outlet

Fresh  
Water

Sec 13  
T1N R26E

RUSH CREEK

Road

Road

Fish Checking Station  
U.S. Weather Station

Shelton